

Serial No. 10/748,040
Art Unit No. 3623

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Amend the paragraph from page 3, lines 3-9 as follows:

Because presently available ~~on-time~~ on-line consulting services are not research-centric, the accuracy of the consultations provided often depends on the questions asked. For example, with one service, unless a question relates to an area that is already part of a pre-existing database of research, it is unlikely that the on-line consulting service can provide a satisfactory solution. In another example, the on-line consulting service merely provides a consultant to answer questions based on a consultant's own knowledge. More complex questions, such as those requiring custom industry research, are not provided for by any known systems.

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Amend the paragraph found on page 7, lines 4-12 as follows:

As group member 6 responds to the one or more queries that it receives from central location 2, it sends its response back to central location 2. Central location 2 transmits the replies to one or more consultations 1'0. Consultants 10 review the results and prepare an analysis/summary of the results for each query. Typically, the type and level of analysis depends on the topic area(s) of the queries, the sophistication of the group members 6, the level (e.g., cost) of consultant service for which group members 6 have paid, and the like. When the analysis is complete, the consultant 10 transmits it to central location 2, which then transmits it to all group members [[2]] 6. This transmission may be in any manner known to those skilled in the art, such as regular mail delivery, electronic communication, posting to a web page, and the like.

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Amend the paragraph found on page 11, lines 5-9 as follows:

When the second time period is over (step 170), one or more consultants review the responses and prepare and analysis based on the one or more queries and the respective responses (step 180). The consultant then transmits the analysis to the central location, which then transmits it to the group (step 190). In another embodiment (not shown in Figure 2), the central location can store the analysis for future reference by group members and/or consultants.

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